BAP slams parties' 'conflicting' remarks on mines law

• Says some of them support Balochistan legislation in parliament but oppose it in public • Questions conduct of opposition members who enjoy govt perks, privileges

By Muhammad Akbar Notezai

QUETTA: The Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) on Saturday expressed serious concern over what it described as contradictory statements and conduct of certain nationalist and religious political parties regarding the Balochistan Mines and Minerals Act, both inside and outside parliament.

The party's central spokesman said in a statement issued here that BAP maintained the same position in parliament as it did before the public, whereas, unfortunately, some political and religious parties supported the law within parliamentary forums while simultaneously misleading the public outside parliament through protests and inflammatory rhetoric.

He termed this approach "a failed attempt to deceive the people".

The spokesperson pointed out that there was a clear contradiction between the words and actions of several parties represented in parliament.

Referring to a religious party, he said it supported the law in the relevant committee but later staged a symbolic suspension of its member's party membership, which was subsequently restored, in an attempt to create a misleading impression.

He added that the party's stance inside parliament was entirely different from what it projected publicly.

Similarly, the spokesperson alleged that a nationalist party remained involved behind the scenes in running the former government of Mir Abdul Qudoos Bizenjo for a long time.

He claimed that one of its current members of the assembly supported the mines and minerals law in the committee, yet the party continued to play a token opposition role before the public merely for show.

Conduct questioned

He further questioned the conduct of other Baloch and Pashtun nationalist parties in the present assembly, stating that their members sat on the opposition benches while enjoying all government and personal perks and privileges.

According to him, these parties were part of the government when it came to securing benefits, but raised opposition slogans to mislead the public, which he termed "a betrayal of the people".

The spokesperson reiterated that adopting one position inside parliament while staging protests, pursuing court cases, and creating an uproar outside over the mines and minerals law was tantamount to keeping the public in the dark.

Dar arrives in Beijing for strategic dialogue

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was the "highest consultative mechanism between Pakistan and China, providing a structured platform to review the entire spectrum of bilateral cooperation, as well as regional and international developments of mutual interest".

It said that during the dialogue, the two foreign ministers will also announce a series of initiatives and commemorative activities to mark the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

It had added that the visit formed an important part of the regular high-level exchanges between the two countries and reflected their shared determination to broaden and deepen their cooperative partnership, while reaffirming their mutual commitment to regional peace, stability, and sustainable development.

The sixth round of the strategic dialogue was held in Islamabad in August, with Mr Yi visiting the capital and meeting Mr Dar, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President Asif Ali Zardari.

At the time, China had affirmed its commitment to working with Pakistan on promoting regional peace, development and stability.

BEIJING: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar arrives at the airport.—APP

Eight illegal Afghan nationals detained

QUETTA: Security forces conducted an operation in the Ghwaiya Ghar area along the Dera Ghazi Khan Road, detaining eight Afghan nationals who were residing illegally in the district. The detainees were later handed over to the Levies authorities.

According to officials, the Loralai Levies took the individuals into custody and later handed them over to security authorities at the Pak-Afghan border, from where they will be deported to Afghanistan.

Following the Afghan war, thousands of Afghan refugees settled in various camps across Loralai district.

Over the past four decades, their population grew significantly. After the federal government announced the repatriation of Afghan refugees, the district administration evacuated four refugee camps, demolished houses built by the refugees, and facilitated the return of several families to Afghanistan.

Many refugees residing illegally moved to Loralai city and its outskirts, renting houses at high costs. Thousands of Afghan nationals are still reportedly living illegally in Loralai and surrounding areas. Public circles have called on security forces to further intensify operations to repatriate illegal Afghan residents to their home country.—Saleem Shahid

Political stability only possible through dialogue: Punjab governor

Saleem Haider says Imran Khan cannot be released through street pressure or political agitation

By Kalbe Ali

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider on Saturday said that political stability cannot be achieved through confrontation, asserting that President Asif Ali Zardari is the political figure capable of creating an environment of dialogue and consensus.

The governor said that PTI leader Imran Khan could not be released through street pressure or political confrontation. "The only viable path forward for the country is dialogue," Governor Saleem Haider said.

He was speaking to the media at a ceremony marking the birth anniversary of Hazrat Ali.

Responding to a question about political unity, Mr Haider said Pakistan was fortunate to have a statesman capable of bringing all political forces to the table. He named President Asif Ali Zardari as the only leader who could facilitate a grand national dialogue to resolve the current political deadlock.

"If Asif Ali Zardari is given space, he can initiate a meaningful dialogue involving all stakeholders," the Punjab governor said, recalling that despite lacking a clear majority in 2008, the Pakistan Peoples Party completed its five-year term due to the reconciliation policy adopted by Mr Zardari.

He added that the solution to today's political challenges also lay with President Zardari, but stressed that progress would remain stalled unless political parties demonstrated mutual respect and unity.

Commenting on the situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the governor said the provincial government had been entrusted to the chief minister, who should prioritise public welfare over political agitation.

He warned that continued confrontational statements and rhetoric would only widen divisions, undermine political stability, and prove counterproductive. Governor Haider concluded by saying that increased political friction would ultimately harm the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf.

"I reiterate that negotiation, not escalation, is the only way forward for the country," he said, adding that this also included religious segments. "Religious harmony and political consensus are the need of the hour for Pakistan," he added.

He said that the birth anniversary of Hazrat Ali has been celebrated in Rawalpindi for many years, with religious leaders of all mainstream schools of thought actively participating in the programme, reflecting interfaith and sectarian harmony in the region.

India promoting terrorism

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terrorism in Pakistan. He remains imprisoned in Pakistan.

"Equally concerning are recurring instances of extraterritorial killings, sabotage through proxies, and covert support to terrorist networks. This pattern is consistent with the extremist ideology of Hindutva and its violent proponents," the FO said.

"India continues its illegal and violent military occupation of Jammu and Kashmir," it added.

"Pakistan remains steadfast in its commitment to extend full political, moral, and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri people in their just struggle to realise their right to self-determination, as enshrined in relevant UN Security Council resolutions".

On the topic of the IWT, the FO said that it was an international agreement "concluded in good faith and at considerable cost".

"Any unilateral violation of the treaty by India would undermine regional stability and call into question its credibility as a state that claims to respect international legal obligations. Pakistan will take all necessary measures to safeguard its legitimate rights under the treaty," it added.

The development comes after National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq and Dr Jaishankar shook hands in Dhaka on Wednesday during the funeral of the country's former premier, Khaleda Zia, marking the first high-level contact between Pakistani and Indian officials since the military conflict in May 2025.

Quetta to get People's Train Service soon

By Saleem Shahid

QUETTA: The Balochistan government has decided to launch people's local train service in Quetta, which will be inaugurated soon and will operate between Sariab and Kuchlak.

This was disclosed by Balochistan Transport Secretary Hayat Khan Kakar while speaking to the media at the Agriculture College Quetta on Saturday.

He said that alongside the upcoming train service, 21 new buses under the Green and Pink Bus Service project have also arrived in the provincial capital, including five Pink Buses exclusively for women.

Mr Kakar said the Pink Bus Service has been introduced to provide safer and more convenient transport facilities for women, as men and women were previously travelling together on Green Buses. He added that the Pink Buses will operate from Bileli to the University of Balochistan via Sariab.

He further said that a female conductor will be deployed on Pink Buses to collect fares, and efforts are underway to appoint female drivers as well.

The transport secretary said more than 10,000 passengers are expected to travel daily on the Green and Pink Bus services. Routes for both services have already been notified, while the Pink Bus project will be expanded further, with routes designed according to passenger demand.

He also announced that Green and Pink Bus services will be launched in Turbat, Gwadar, Khuzdar, Dera Bugti and Sui. Separate seating points for men and women will be established at bus stops.

Reiterating the importance of public transport, he said the launch of the People's Train Service in Quetta would provide significant relief to commuters and help improve the city's overall transport system.

KP CM's non-bailable warrants

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which the chief minister and other individuals were nominated.

Mr Afridi is also facing a case in the Election Commission of Pakistan for the code of conduct violation during a recent by-election on a national seat in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. His lawyers have, however, challenged the ECP's jurisdiction in the case while also moving the high court against the election watchdog.

The ECP had summoned the CM after he threatened the election staff during a political gathering in Havelian, Abbottabad, ahead of the by-poll in NA-18.

It may be noted that Mr Afridi has been tasked by party leader Imran Khan, who is in jail, to lead the 'street movement' against the government. He visited Lahore last week to galvanise the party's supporters, but the provincial authorities created hurdles in his political activities, prompting allegations from both sides.

He is set to visit Karachi next week to whip up support for the planned protest drive. The CM had also staged a sit-in outside the Adiala jail after the authorities barred him from visiting Imran Khan. However, he refrained from participating in subsequent protests to avoid legal troubles.

Ex-PTI leaders plan MPC

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instead on senior party leaders outside Adiala jail to initiate and sustain a dialogue process.

It also sought the release on parole of PTI leaders held in Kot Lakhpat Jail, including Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Dr Yasmin Rashid, Omar Sarfraz Cheema, Mian Mehmoodur Rasheed and former senator Ejaz Chaudhry.

The committee said talks could only succeed if they began with tangible confidence-building measures.

Once bustling, Shershah now struggles for buyers

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Rs25,000-30,000 five years back.

While complaining of surviving on only two per cent sales for the last four to five years, he said higher import duties on parts and accessories have pushed prices to the ceiling, thus keeping buyers away from the Shershah market.

Syed Wali, who deals in heavy vehicle engines, said an Isuzu 2,500cc engine is available at Rs350,000 compared to Rs130,000 four years back, while a Hyundai Shehzore 2,400cc engine is priced at Rs400,000 compared to Rs160,000.

A Toyota Hilux 2,200-2,800cc engine is now priced at Rs300,000 as compared to Rs150,000.

"From morning to evening, we have been waiting for the buyers to turn up as trading activities have been at the lowest ebb of five per cent for the last many years," he said.

A troubled past

Apart from prices and access, traders say the market's past still affects how people view Shershah.

A wave of fear had gripped the market owing to the killing of 13 to 14 people, including traders and customers, in October 2010, as Karachi was in the grip of rising ethnic and political violence.

In June 2012, a prominent trader was shot dead in the market after he refused to pay extortion money.

Zahid Malik Dehalvi, president of Anjuman Welfare Shershah Kabari Market, said that the Shershah market has been free of any smuggled parts and accessories for decades, as traders are paying heavy duties and taxes on imported used items.

"We pay over Rs10 million as duties and taxes on one container carrying a load of 26 tonnes while smugglers clear the same by paying just Rs1.5m to Rs2m," he said, adding that this is the main reason that the prices of auto parts in Shershah market are costlier than smuggled parts.

He said it was the government's responsibility to provide basic amenities to the six-decade-old market as well as full security, as buyers and even traders still feel unsafe to even carry Rs50,000. He urged the Sindh government to ensure the setting up of police pickets in the market.

A detailed version of this story can be accessed at Dawn.com

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Submission email: fcpshpe@cpsp.edu.pk

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NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES
Rafiqui (H.J.) Shaheed Road, Karachi.
Tel. No. 3521-8530, 9920-1271-75 Ext. 419 & 335, Fax: 9920-1289
Website: www.nicvd.org

Ref: NICVD/TN/Khi/No.11/25-26

TENDER NOTICE FOR NICVD KARACHI

Tender No. 11-2025 & 13-2025

Online Tenders through EPAD SPPRA addressed to Executive Director, NICVD, Karachi are invited under SPPRA rules, 2010 (Amended 2019) from well reputed Manufacturers, Authorized Distributors, Sole Agents, Contractor, must be registered with Sales Tax Department on FOR basis for the following supply items for the financial year **2025-2026.**

S. No.	Description	Tender Nos.	Quantity & Specifications are available in Tender Documents	Last Date & Time of Submission & purchasing of Bids	Opening Date & Time of Technical Bids
01.	Annual Tender for Supply of Stationery Items (As per List)	**11-2025**		22-01-2026 Thursday at 10:30 a.m.	22-01-2026 Thursday at 11:00 a.m.
02.	Annual Tender for Supply of General & Housekeeping Items (As per List)	**13-2025**		22-01-2026 Thursday at 10:30 a.m.	22-01-2026 Thursday at 11:00 a.m.

Bidding documents should be downloaded from EPADs (SPPRA) & should submit pay order/cash of **Rs. 2000/-** for each tender in the name of Executive Director, NICVD, Karachi for each tender from **06-01-2026 (Tuesday).**

Bids should be submitted in EPAD SPPRA Software before above submission details. Only Technical bids will be opened online on the above mentioned date and time in the presence of Tender Opening Committee and bidders at **11:00 a.m sharp**. Financial bid will be opened a few days later, after scrutinizing the technical bids.

All tenders will be accepted along with a **pay order / bank draft of 1%** of the total bid amount in the name of Executive Director, NICVD, Karachi as bid security in Procurement department before submission of bid.

Note: Single Stage Two envelopes procedure will be followed.

Note:
1.Evaluation criteria would be strictly followed.
2.This advertisement is also available on EPADS & NICVD websites.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Vacancy Announcement

An International organization is seeking applications for the below mentioned positions based in Sindh.

Regional Field Manager

The Regional Field Manager is a full-time position and will be responsible for overseeing field implementation, monitoring, and data validation in the assigned districts of Sindh. The position ensures high-quality field execution, accurate and timely data reporting, effective coordination with District Health Offices (DHOs), DDSRUs Focal Person, District TB Coordinators and implementing partners. The position plays a critical role in operationalizing the Collaborative, Learning, and Adaptive (CLA) approach by ensuring that field monitoring and validated data continuously inform learning, coordination and program improvements.

Required qualifications and experience

- MBBS, MPH, MSPH, MSc in Public Health or Epidemiology.
- Minimum 7–10 years of progressively responsible experience in public health programs, preferably in GHS/IDSR and TB.
- Demonstrated experience in implementation, field monitoring, data quality assurance, and supervision at district and facility levels.
- Strong familiarity with Sindh Public health systems, DHIS-2, IDSR, TB reporting structures, and outbreak response mechanisms.
- Prior experience working in an International Organization on donor-funded projects is highly desirable.
- Strong understanding of GHS frameworks, IDSR, and the 7-1-7 strategy.
- Sound knowledge of TB program implementation, including diagnostics, case-based surveillance, and referral systems.
- Proven skills in data validation, analysis, and interpretation.
- Proficiency in digital data collection tools, dashboards, and MS Office.
- Excellent coordination, communication, and stakeholder-management skills.
- Ability to work independently, manage multiple priorities, and travel extensively within assigned districts.

Interested individuals may send their CV with a cover letter to ihss-sd.recruitment@jsi.org not later than January 18, 2026. For further details please visit BrigtSpyre link https://brightspyre.com/jsi/. Clearly mention the cluster of districts applied in the subject.

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